

THE  
**MASK**

OMNIBUS

VOLUME 1



THE  
**MASK**<sup>®</sup>  
OMNIBUS



THE  
**MASK**  
OMNIBUS  
VOLUME 1



DARK HORSE BOOKS

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**THE MASK**® Omnibus Volume 1

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# THE MASK



D'Ysa

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*and*  
**DOUG MAHNKE**

*with*  
**DOUG MAHNKE and MATT WEBB**

*illustrating*  
**PAT BROSSEAU and DAVID JACKSON**

*with illustration*  
**DOUG MAHNKE**











SO WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? LET'S GO WASTE THE NAZIS.



NOW I MUST BE REALLY UPSET.

BETTER GET A GODD

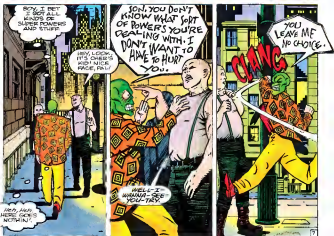
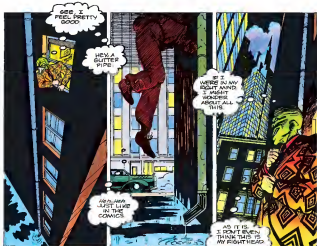






AND ALMA LEFT IT LEAVE TO DEGRADE ME









WE'LL REPEY A  
COUPLE OF FREE  
ACHERS!

EEEEEE!!

AH,  
SO YOU'RE  
INTO REAL  
ESTATE, EA?

DON'T  
TELL ME YOU  
GET ANY GIRLS  
WITH A FACE LIKE  
THAT.

TRUST  
ME, YOU'LL  
THANK ME  
LATER.

FOPPE!

JUST LET ME  
ABOUT  
THIS-

WAAAAHIIIIIIWWW

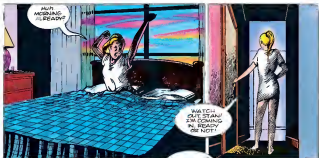
SATCH,  
BOBO.

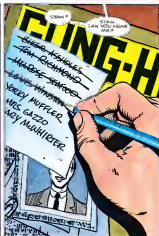
AIEEEH.

WHY I  
WONDER  
WHAT THIS  
IS FOR.





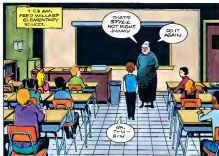










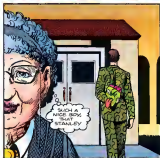














Duff Pan

THIS IS ALL  
WHOLELY  
HOLLY



I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT'S GOING  
ON, OR WHY I'M  
CHANGING, BUT I  
KNOW I'VE GOT  
SOME THING TO  
DO WITH  
YOU



SO MAYBE THE  
BEST WAY TO HELP  
STEAM IS TO LET  
HIM ON YOU!



SHOULD  
BEAT  
HOLE

IT'LL BE  
READY IN A  
MOMENT  
HAVE  
A SEAT



STANLEY, I  
WANT TO TALK  
TO YOU ABOUT  
SOMETHING

OH  
HOLE,  
WHAT'S  
THE  
MATTER



YOU KNOW, STEAM  
YOU'VE CHANGED  
A LOT LATELY!

DO  
YOU KNOW  
WHAT THE  
MATTER IS?



A. ANDY AND YOU THOUGHT THE TERM "BOMB" WAS OFFENSIVE

ANDY: SURVIVE - YES - TRAVE - NO



IS IT TAKING IT AWAY

WHAT?



WHERE IS IT? I GOTTA GET IT! HOW COULD YOU DO THIS TO ME?

STAY! LOOK AT YOURSELF! LOOK HOW YOU'RE ACTING!



YOU'VE CHANGED SO MUCH. ALL THESE BOOKS, THAT WEIRD LIST OF NAMES. THE WAY YOU TALK, THE WAY YOU ACT. I DON'T FEEL I KNOW YOU ANYMORE.

THAT MIGHT BE A PRESENT TO YOU, BUT I DON'T WANT IT ANYMORE. SO IT'S YOURS. THAT IS THAT. I'VE NEVER MET ANYONE MORE DIFFERENT THAN ME.

YOU'RE RIGHT. THAT THING HAS CHANGED ME. I MEAN, JUST BECAUSE MRS. GAZDO REARRANGED ME AND NO ONE WAS GOING TO GET HER.

IT'S ALL BOTTEN DOWN UP-HEAD. I DON'T WANT THAT THING. CONTROL LIES ARE I'M BETTER OFF WITHOUT THE SHIRT.



BEHIND, I ALREADY GOT EVERYONE ON MY LIST

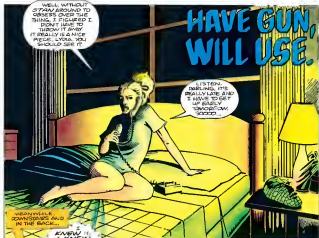


JUST GIVE ME SOME TIME TO WORK IT OUT AND I'LL BE OKAY

YOU DID THE RIGHT THING, ANDY. I THINK I JUST HAVE SOME UNRESOLVED ANGER

OH, STAY! I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT. HOW MANY BOUT SOME STEW?





WELL, WITHOUT OTHER PEOPLE TO CONSIDER, I FIGURED I DON'T HAVE TO THROW IT AWAY. IT REALLY IS A NICE PIECE, LYDIA. YOU SHOULD SEE IT.

**HAVE GUN, WILL USE.**

LISTEN, DARLING, IT'S REALLY LATE AND I HAVE TO GET UP EARLY TOMORROW MORNING...

MEANWHILE, JOANNE'S AND IN THE BACK...

EVERY TIME I REMEMBER NOTLY REMEMBERING SHE NEVER DID THROW THAT MACK OUT.



SHE JUST WANTED IT FOR HERSELF. THAT'S WHY SHE BROKE UP WITH ME.



WELL, I'LL SHOW HER.



IT'S A GREAT VIEW.



IT WAS A WHOLE LOT EASIER COMING DOWN THE THING



THERE!



WOW! JUST A LITTLE FURTHER COME ON, STAN OLD BOY YOU CAN DO IT!



THAT CAME FROM THE BATHROOM!

I'VE GOT TO CALL THE POLICE



YES, THAT'S RIGHT. LET'S IN THE APARTMENT NOW

PLEASE, YOU'VE GOT TO GET OVER HERE IMMEDIATELY! I'M REALLY SCARED!



LOOK, LADY, HOLD UP! CHEER UP! I'M ONLY THE DISPATCHER, NOT A ONE-MAN POLICE FORCE.

NOW, WHAT'D YOU SAY YOUR ADDRESS WAS?









THAT ROBOTIC SOUND LIKE A ROYALFRIEND. IN FACT, THAT ROBOTIC SOUND LIKE A **ALARM!**

OH YEAH? I'LL LET'S JUST TAKE A LOOK

OH, WELL... YOU SEE HE'S NOT ONE OF THOSE WARM MICROPHONE TALKING



OH I'M SORRY I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE GIRL

WELL, I HOPE THIS TEACHES YOU TO MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS

I KNOW I HAD IT MADE SOMEWHERE

WHO ARE YOU? WHO'S YOUR 'STAMP'? WHAT DID YOU DO WITH ALL A BUNNY ARE YOU COMING THIS?



YOU FORGOT, WHY DON'T YOU KILL YOU? JUST ONE CRACK'S MAN!



**CRASH**



**BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM**



WHAT NOW WOULD BILLY JACK DO IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS?



ARE THERE 15?





YOU'VE KILLED HIM! YOU'VE KILLED MY BOSS! YOU'VE KILLED MY BOSS!

HEY, DON'T BLAME ME. YOU'RE THE ONE WITH ALL THE BLOOD!

HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON OUTSIDE?

WELL, IT'S ABOUT TIME THEY GOT HERE, RIGHT WITH ALL THE STAIRS AND...



HEY, GUY! STOPPING!

GET OVER MY FOOT!

WATCH! WHERE YOU STICK THAT GUN!

HEY, WHAT BLOOD DO WE WANT?



OH, THANKS SO MUCH! YOU'VE ARRIVED! ALL THE BLOOD IS ON THE 5TH FLOOR!

MUCH OBLIGED!

THANK YOU AGAIN!

APPRECIATED IT!

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS!



HOLD ON, GARGE!

AM I IMAGINING THINGS, OR DID THAT OLD LADY HAVE A BLOOD?

Chydy?



CATCH!

LISTEN, SOMEBODY HAS TO STAY WITH THE  
THE PRISONER, SO WHY NOT YOU?

CAUSE YOU ALWAYS  
GET TO GO THE  
SHOOTING. I  
NEVER GET TO  
DO ANYTHING  
EXCITING.



# BOOM



MEMORABLE...





THEY SAID A GUY GOT SHOT UP BY THE BRICKS?

YEAH



YOU GUYS ARE JUST TOO CLEVER FOR ME

WOOHOO! WOOHOO!



SAME! THIS IS POSSIBLE! YOU WERE RIGHT! IT'S THE TWO-HEADED GUY! I THINK HE'S HEADED FOR THE ROOFTOP!

OH! YOU CALL COMMAND OVER.



I GUESS SO, AND I GOT FAST RESULTS WHEN THEY GOT THE ADDRESS. LIEUTENANT MELLORBY SAID MELLORBY'S MOTHER LIVES IN THIS BUILDING.

HOLD ON, PASCAL. THE LIEUTENANT WANTS TO HAVE A WORD WITH YOU.

GOOD WORK. OFFICERS KEEP TALKING TO HIM. WE'RE COMING UP.

ANY CIVILIANS HURT?

NO SIR, ONLY LOPE. BUT I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING. THIS GUY AINT GOING TO BE EASY TO CATCH.

DON'T WORRY OFFICER.



I CAN'T PREPARE









OH MAN, HE'S GOING TO HIT THE CAR!



SUPERBOOM!



WELL YOU'LL ONLY GET THEM IF THE KEYS ARE FIRE IN THE BOX.



IF I TELL YOU, WILL YOU INVITE THEFT?

YOU CAN'T LET THIS LIMITED-ACCESSION TRADE AREA BE UNCONSTITUTIONAL!



I WONDER HOW MUCH ONE OF THOSE TRUCKS COSTS.



GEE, IT'S FUN TO BE A COP'S CAR THERE, WHAT DO WE GO HOME TO THE CLERK?



KA BOOM!







I LEFT STAN BACK THERE AND TRIED TO GET TROOP OF THE POLICE

WHILE I'M TALKING TO THEM, WE HEAR NOISES IN MY ROOM. THE POLICE WANTED TO CHECK IT OUT, AND WHEN WE GET BACK HERE, STAN'S GONE. INSTEAD, THAT TALKING GUY HERE, HITTING EVERYBODY OVER THE HEAD



WITH LIGHTS, RIGHT? JUST LIKE YOU HIT STAN. TELL ME, WHY DID YOUR MOVIE BREAKDOWN IN IN THE FIRST PLACE?

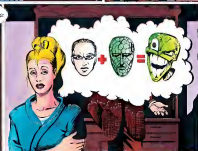
WELL, WE'D HAD A FEELING I GUESSED YOU COULD BRING ME UP



AND, WHAT WAS THE FEELING ABOUTS, GUY? MAYBE?

HARDLY. IT WAS OVER A GIFT

JUST A-- A, HAWHA. I CAN'T SEEM TO FIND IT NOW



I SAID, I GUESSED IT DIDN'T MATTER WHAT THE GIFT IS, DOES IT?

WHA--? OH NO, NO, IT WAS JUST A GIFT



I THINK WE SHOULD TALK TO YOUR BOSS. HE'D GIVE US HIS ADDRESS

YES, OF COURSE

I'LL LEAVE AN OFFICE AT YOUR HOME TOMORROW



NO, THAT'S NOT NECESSARY--

-- I HAVE A FRIEND I CAN STAY WITH





THERE, MY FRIENDS  
CARRY ME WHIRTER, A  
DEADBEAT WHO OWES ME  
A PILE OF MONEY.

I CAN'T  
BLAME THAT GUY FOR  
BREAKING INTO HIS  
SISTER'S APARTMENT  
IF I LIVED IN THIS  
NEIGHBORHOOD, I'D  
DO THE SAME THING.

WELL, I KNOW  
WHAT YOU MEAN,  
LEUTENANT.

LEUTENANT,  
THE RED-HEADED  
GUY HAS JUST BEEN  
SIGHTED AT BRADSHAW  
AVE. GOING WEST  
ON WORLEY BOULEVARD.

ALL RIGHT,  
LET'S GET  
MOVING.

LISTEN, HENDERSON,  
I WANT YOU TO STAY  
HERE - HAS ANYONE  
COMED OVER THE HORN?  
THIS IS YOUR POST.  
GOT THAT?

YESSIR,  
LEUTENANT.

THIS IS MELLAWAY. I WANT  
A DISPATCHER TO ARRANGE A  
GRAB CAR ON THE WEST  
END OF WORLEY BOULEVARD  
WITH ALL PERSONNEL IN THE  
VICINITY.

THIS TIME  
HE'S NOT  
GETTING  
AWAY.

WHERE'S MY SURE  
BICKS, HOLY SHIT  
OF A BITCH  
?!

KROW  
KROW  
KROW





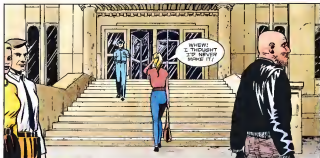
























LOOK, THIS WHOLE CRIBBAL HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN MORE OF A STRAIN THAN YOU THOUGHT.

AFTER YOU'VE GOTTEN SOME SLEEP, GIVE ME A CALL, AND WE CAN DISCUSS THE MORE... RATIONALLY.



YOU'RE RIGHT I HAVEN'T SLEPT IN DAYS BUT I SHOULD BE ABLE TO NOW I'LL CALL YOU TOMORROW.

NO HURRY, HERE DON'T FORGET THIS.



OH, OH, OH.

OH NO! I DON'T EVER WANT TO SEE THAT THING AGAIN, IT'S THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY NOW.

DO YOU MEAN IF I DON'T TAKE IT BACK?



AND REMEMBER, WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T LET ANYBODY HEAR THAT THING.

YOU GOT IT.



LATE? THAT EVENING.

YOU ARE GOING HOME TONIGHT, AREN'T YOU?

SURE SURE, SURE SURE, SURE SURE.



I'VE BEEN SEEMING TO FEEL WHAT'S THAT?

OH, THAT LADY WHO WAS HERE EARLIER FORCED IT ON ME, SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT SHE WAS PRETTY UPSET, SO I PLAYED ALONG.





MOVE  
SWEET  
HOME!



AND  
AS FOR  
YOU--



I'LL BET YOU BELONGED  
TO THAT POOR GIRL'S  
BOYFRIEND. PROBABLY  
SCARED HER TO HAVE  
YOU AROUND.

DEATH DOES THAT  
TO FOLK. SCARES 'EM. I BEAN  
ESPECIALLY MURDER.



WELL, ENOUGH CHIT  
CHAT, FRIEND. TIME  
FOR DINNER!

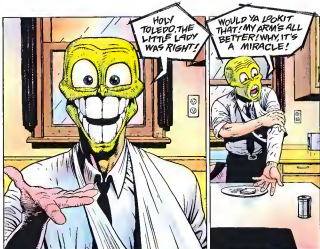


TUNA-SALAD ALWAYS  
TASTES BEST AFTER A  
COUPLE DAYS IN THE  
FRIDGE.

WHAT'D  
SHE SAY  
AGAIN, "DON'T  
EVER PUT IT  
ON?"

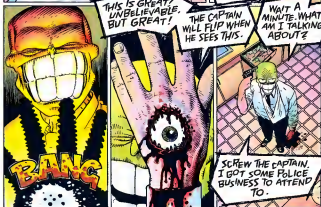


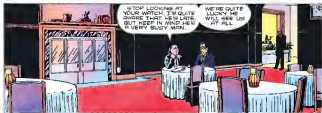
SHE WAS  
CRUEL, VERY  
DISTRUSTFUL.











STOP LOOKING AT YOUR WATCH. I'M QUITE AWARE THAT HE'S LATE, BUT KEEP IN MIND HE'S A VERY BUSY MAN.

WE'RE QUITE LUCKY HE WILL SEE US AT ALL.



WWW - I HAVE TO SEE SOMEONE AT 11 O'CLOCK. HE WILL BE HERE BEFORE THEN?

PROBABLY.



SORRY TO BE SO LATE, DAVID, BUT TODAY WAS CRAZY.

NOT TO WORRY, STEVEN. LATE'S THIS IS BUSINESS. BARRAZ.



OH, MR. BARRAZ, NICE TO MEET YOU.

AS IT IS TO MEET YOU.

DO YOU CAN SEE I GOT MY BARRAZ RELEASED ON REASONABLE BAIL.



I WOULDN'T BE HERE IF I DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD HANDLE THAT MUCK ON YOUR OWN.

BUT OF COURSE, THERE ARE OTHER PROBLEMS.





ARE YOU SURE THAT'S EVERYTHING, GRANNY?

YES, IT'S ALL THERE. I'VE DONE EVERYTHING YOU'VE ASKED. YOU AIN'T GOING TO SHOOT ME, ARE YOU?



I TOLD YOU THAT IF YOU COOPERATED I WOULDN'T SHOOT YA, AND I AIN'T GONNA SHOOT YA.

OH, THANK YOU SIR. THANK YOU SO MUCH.



**BOOM**

ME!!!



WHERE'S THE CAR, MAN?! WHERE'S THE "KIDNAP" CAR?!

LOOK DOWN THERE.



SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH THE CAR. IT WON'T START.

WOON'T START?! WOON'T START?! I DON'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING! WHAT DID YOU DO TO IT, MAN?

I DIDN'T DO NOTHING. I JUST SHOT LUC COONEY. MAYBE I CAN FIX IT REAL FAST.



IT'S A GOOD THING YOU GUYS STEAL AMERICAN.

AWFULLY DIRTY, THOUGH.



THESE FOREIGN ENGINES CAN BE SO DAMNED CRAMPED.



DON'T STARE AT ME, MID. I'M TELLING YOU IT'S THE CARBURETOR.



HERE!  
SEE FOR YOURSELF!

WHONK!



WHANNING!





AND BEHOLD!  
WE HAVE A  
GIRAFFE!

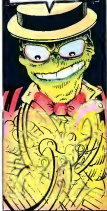


A COUPLE  
OF WELL PLACED  
TWISTS...



VOILA,  
A FRENCH  
POODLE!

SEVERAL MORE  
TWISTS... AND WE HAVE  
MY FAVORITE -



A  
TOMMY  
GUN!!









SORRY BEN, I WAS CHECKING ON THE OLD LADY, BUT SHE'S BEYOND OUR HELP.

WE'VE GOT TO BE CAREFUL GETTING HIM ASHORE, LET'S GIVE HIM A NECK IN-JURY.



ALL GET PREPARED! LET'S ROLL!



HE JUST JUST CAME OUT OF THE CAR.

BOY, YOU BETTER TRY NOT TO MOVE YOUR HEAD, OKAY?

GIVE HIM THIS, IT'LL PUT HIM TO SLEEP IN SEC-ONDS. I'M GOING TO TAP HIS HEAD DOWN, MINIMIZE ANY MOVEMENT.



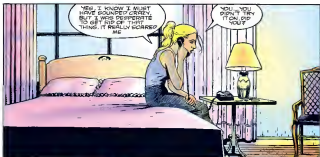
YOU GOT IT, PACE!

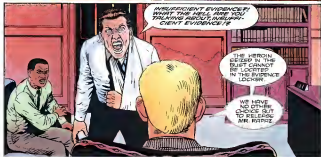
RIGHT! Mmm...



HI THERE, REMEMBER MEE?!









THE CITY IS A SWARM AND  
DANGEROUS PLACE AT NIGHT,  
TOLL BOYS, MAD DOGS, DRUNKS,  
RATS AND BLOWERS--THE  
SMELL OF SOCIETY.

THE POLICE DO THEIR BEST,  
BUT THEY CAN'T BE EVERY-  
WHERE. IN FACT, THERE ARE  
FOUR SOME NEIGHBORHOODS  
ALTOGETHER.

IN THESE SITUATIONS,  
ONLY ONE MAN  
STANDS BETWEEN  
THE INNOCENT--AND  
THE GUILTY.

HEAVEN HELP  
THE INNOCENT.

AH. I KNEW  
I'D GET IT  
WITH A LITTLE  
PRACTICE.

NOW I  
GOTTA WORK  
ON MY "ROUND  
THE WORLD."















I'LL KILL THAT  
FROGGIN' BENNY!  
HE MUST TOLD  
MURDER I COULDED  
ON HIM

WHEN I FIND  
THAT IS, IT'S  
THE END FOR  
HIM



**WHUNK!**



NO, WEN!  
PLEASE, YOU GOTTA  
LEAVE GO THAT  
MONSTER'LL KILL ME  
IF HE GETS HIS  
HANDS ON ME!



MMMM, TRY SHOWING A  
BIT MORE GRATI-  
TITUDE, LANK.



BENNY TELLS  
ME YOU USUALLY  
TALK ABOUT A  
NICHEL OF THE  
CHEAPEST OUT  
STUFF HE HAS

AND HERE  
I'VE GOT A  
PINE OF PURE  
HORSE, ALL  
COACHED,  
BROWN, AND  
READY TO  
SHOOT.

MMMM,  
ABSOLUTELY  
FREE!



MMMM, PLEASE,  
WALTER, HOLD HIS  
STEADY

WE DON'T  
WANT TO  
HURT  
HIM



MORNING, LIEUTENANT KELLAWAY

YEAH, SURE

HEY, KELLAWAY, OVER HERE



WHAT IS IT, GILBERT

I THINK I GOT SOMETHING HERE YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN.



AND THEN HE WALKS AWAY GRINNING...

...JUST LIKE SMITTER.

LOOKS LIKE YOUR SIS-HEADED LOONY STRUCK AGAIN, AND THIS TIME HE'S DO-GOODER.



SOMEONE-- UN-ANYBODY.. KILLED IT?

WELL, NO, BUT WE GOT A GUY IN INTERVIEW CO--



IF THAT "SIS-HEAD" THEN IT'S YOUR PROBLEM.

I'VE GOT MY OWN NIGHTMARES TO DEAL WITH, SO DON'T BOMB ME!



**SLAM!**

DAMN THAT GILBER! DOESN'T HE REALIZE I'VE GOT PLENTY OF CASES ON MY OWN TO DEAL WITH?

GOOD MORNING TO YOU, TOO!



I'M SORRY, LIONEL. WHY THE HELL DOES HE BOOTHER ME WITH HIS PROBLEMS?

IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THAT VIOLENTE GUY, I HEAR IT MIGHT BE 'TIS HEAD.

AND, AFTER ALL, WE DO HAVE LOTS OF EXPERIENCE WITH THAT FREAK. MAYBE HE JUST WANTED YOUR OPINION.



I'LL TELL YOU MY OPINION. MY OPINION IS, NO WAY WOULD THAT LUCKY GUY THAT EVER BECOME A VIOLENTE.

HE'S A GOLD-BLOODED KILLER, OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?

BOY, LIEUTENANT, I'M A GOOD GUY.



SORRY, I'M JUST STRAWN' DIDN'T GET MUCH SLEEP.

I CAN SEE THAT YOU REALLY LOOK LIKE HELL.



OH, YEAH?

WELL, YEAH, LIEUT.

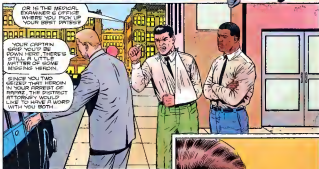


THAT BRINGS UP THE 62. WANTS TO SEE YOU.











WANT A DRY? I THOUGHT IT'D NEVER END!

BEHOLD! WIFE OUT! BROTHER DEPART, AND I'M CATCHING ALL THE DRAG!



WELL, TOMORROW I'LL HAVE TO FACE THE FIBING BOLDLY, BUT TOMORROW!



"I'M CALLING THE SHOTS!"



AHHH... SWEET! I GUESS THAT'S WHY THEY CALL IT LUNG CANDY. EHE

HELLO, LANCY'S PIZZERIA?  
I'LL TAKE ONE LARGE PEE, EXTRA CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE.  
HOLD THE SHAWROCKS.



NOW WE'RE COOKIN'!





WHY, BECAUSE I'VE GOT THE WRONG NUMBER.

IS THIS LIEUTENANT HELLBAY'S RESIDENCE?



HEH, HEH. THIS IS HELLBAY. GLEET CLOWING AROUND. THAT'S ALL. HEH-HEN.

WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

WELL, I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND MY CALLING YOU AT HOME.



BUT WHEN I COULDN'T REACH YOU AT THE STATION, I TALKED TO YOUR MOTHER. SHE LIVED DOWNSTAIRS--

OH, SO THIS IS NITTY. NO PROBLEM, IS THERE SOMETHING I CAN HELP YOU WITH?



WELL, I'VE BEEN REVERSING THE PAPERS, YOU KNOW, ABOUT THIS GREAT VOLUNTARY AND I HAVE TO SAY I'M KIND OF WORRIED.

OH, I SEE, YOU THINK "BUSH-HEAD" BACK IN TOWN, THE INVESTIGATOR OFFICER SEEMS TO THINK SO, TOO.

BUT I FIGURE THE NEW GUY'S A COPILOT OF SOME KIND YOU GOTTA REMEMBER THAT "BUSH-HEAD" WAS A FIRST-CLASS SCUMBER.



I MEAN, HE WAS A KILLER, AND WHILE I'M NOT CRAZY ABOUT VIGILANTES, THEY HAVE GOOD INTENTIONS AT HEART

SO TO SPEAK

YES, I SUPPOSE YOU HAVE A POINT THERE, STILL...



STILL? STILL WHAT?

NOTHING EVERYTHING YOU SAY SEEMS SENSE

THINKING FOR YOUR TIME LIEUTENANT YOU'VE REALLY GOT MY BRAIN AT BAY



HE OBVIOUSLY STILL THINKS I'M CREEPY, AND THAT THE MASK I GAVE HIM IS HARMLESS

IF HE TRIED ON THE MASK, HE'D KNOW WHO "DID-HEAD" REALLY WAS



WHO'S WHO NO KILLER?



CREEP, THE "CLIPBOARD" IS AWAY, MOVING I'LL BE OUT TONIGHT.



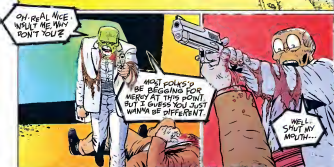
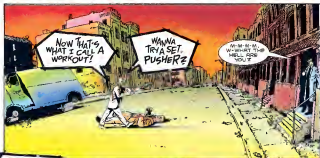
"HELL, WHY NOT MAKE IT A NIGHT OUT ON THE TOWN?"

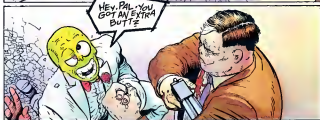
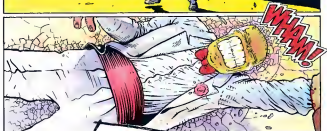




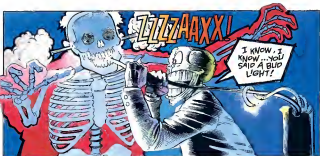














NO, NO, NO, PLEASE DON'T SHOOT ME. I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU WANT!

I HAVE LOTS OF MONEY YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL, ONLY DON'T SHOOT ME!

SAVE YOUR BREATH.



CLICK.



AND YOU THOUGHT I WAS GONNA SHOOT YOU. THAT'S RICH!

HEY, HEY, HOW DULLY AFTER ALL YOU'RE A RESPONSIBLE MAN.



LISTEN, I'D LOVE TO STAY AND CHAT, BUT I GOTTA GET MOVING. OK?

UH, YES, BY ALL MEANS! DON'T LET ME KEEP YOU.

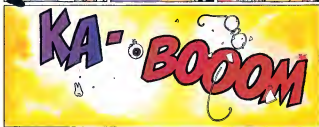


AND TRY TO RELAX. GAL, YOU'RE SWEATIN' LIKE A HORSE.

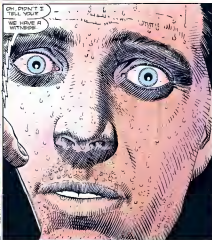


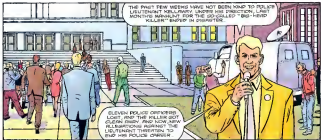
BUT... M-H, ALL RIGHT I'LL TRY.

TICK TICK TICK



KA-BOOM















BACKSTREET HISS ATTACK,  
BUT HENRY JO HAS YET  
TO SEE ANOTHER SOUL  
ON THE 6TH FLOOR.

I MUST BE COOL,  
THINKING I COULD  
STRIKE A DEAL WITH  
THESE GUY.

THEY'RE PROBABLY SURROUNDING  
ME WITH A SWAT TEAM, A  
HUNDRED KIDS, AND A DOT GUN!



THAT IS IT  
BECAUSE SHE'S  
UP AT ALL.



How  
Do you  
DO?



Kaladadada!

AWW, NOW HOW AM I  
SUPPOSED TO KEEP UP  
WITH YOU WITH THESE  
DAMN FLIPPERS ON?





CLEANNING UP THIS COME-  
DOWN ISLAND REQUIRES  
LIMITLESS ENERGY AND IT'S  
A BUSY, BUSY NIGHT FOR  
THE MIGHTY VOLCANO!



IT IS A NIGHT OF  
MISADVENTURE, A NIGHT  
OF ATTEMPT, A NIGHT  
OF TRIUMPH.

A NIGHT  
OF GOOD  
CLEAN  
FUN.



IT'S ALMOST AS IF YOU  
DON'T THINK THE  
TOLL ON LIEUTENANT  
WELLBERRY.

WELL, CAPTAIN,  
I SHOULD GET  
DOWN OUT  
THIS COOP.



DAMN, LIEUTENANT!  
YOU GOTTA GET BACK  
HOME!

WHAT THE  
HELL ARE  
YOU TALKING  
ABOUT?



I TRIED TO REACH  
YOU AT HOME, TELL  
YOU TO CALL IN  
BACK, BUT I MISSED  
YOU.

IF THE CAPTAIN THINKS YOU'RE SICK,  
HE SHOULD LET THE WHOLE THING GO.  
BUT IF HE SAYS YOU COMING IN XXXXX  
XXXX, HE'LL BLOW A GASKET.

LOOK, LONES, THE FACT  
IS, I'M FEELING PRETTY  
WEIRD, AND LET'S JUST GO  
UP AND HAVE A SMOKE  
WITH THE OLD BOY.



THE 'OLD BOY' IS GOING  
TO ASK YOU THE QUESTION  
OF COMING UP TO SEE  
HIM?

OH, YES, YES.



I GOT A CALL, THIS  
MORNING FROM THAT  
WITNESS YOU WERE  
SURPRISED TO MEET  
LAST NIGHT.

HE'S REQUESTED HELP  
TO DEATH, SAYS HE  
WON'T TALK TO ANY  
BODY, EVEN HE'S  
LEAVING TOWN!





WHY DID YOU HAVE TO ASK, WHY WOULD ANYONE TRIGGER THEM FOR NOTHING?

CAPTAIN THE MORN NEVER SACRIFICED UP LAST NIGHT. I WAS THERE FOR NOTHING, AND HE NEVER SHOWED UP



MY GUESS IS HE JUST GOT YOUR FEET

IS THAT YOUR OPINION, WILLIAMS? WILL THAT BE MY OPINION? WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEAVE MY OFFICE?



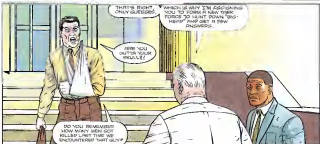
ANY OFFENSE IS THAT SOMEBODY DOESN'T WANT OUR SON TO TALK TO US.

ANY OFFENSE IS THAT THE GANE SOMEBODY GOTTED THE TRIP OUT OF ME WITH THOSEBOSS AND THAT WE WOULDNT TALK



AND MY DAD, GUESS IS THAT THAT GONE? GUY HAS GOT TO BE REAL HEAVY HEAVY

YOURSE GOOD, BUT HE YOU ANY, ALL GUESSES



THAT'S RIGHT ONLY GUESSES

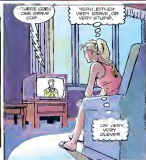
WHICH IS WHY I'M ASKING YOU TO FORM A NEW TASK FORCE TO HUNT DOWN THE HEAVY AND GET A NEW BRANCHING

ARE YOU GETTING BOLD?

DO YOU REMEMBER HOW MANY MEN GOT KILLED LAST TIME WE ENCOUNTERED THAT GUY?









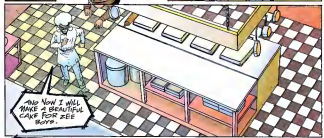


YOU'RE DEAD, BASTARD!



BONK!

YOU READY KNEAD TO RELAX, NOW AM I.



AND NOW I WILL MAKE A BEAUTIFUL CAKE FOR ZEE BOY.



A COUPLE OF ZEE, A DASH OF ZAT, SOME OF ZIS--



AND A WHOLE MESS OF THESE BASTARDS.



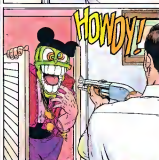
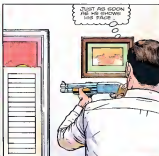


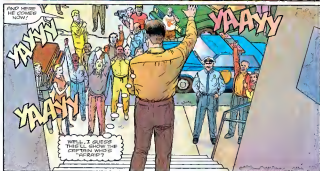
GGHGHGH,  
MORE GONNA  
KILL ME  
WHEN SHE  
FINES OUT!



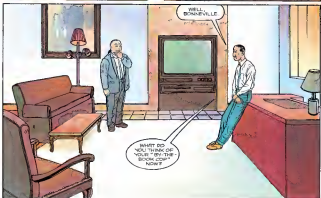
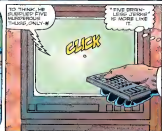


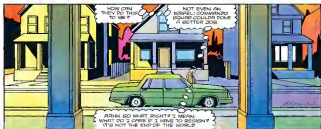














ALL I CAN SAY IS I'M SORRY

WHAT ABOUT THOSE MEN YOU KILLED? YOU CAN'T JUST PROLOGUE THAT AWAY



THOSE "MEN" WERE SOLDIERS! EVERY LAST ONE OF 'EM TRIED TO KILL ME, OR SOMEBODY ELSE, BEFORE I KILLED THEM

THE WORLD'S A BITTER PLACE WITHOUT 'EM



THAT'S JUST WHAT THE NEWS SAID

BUT YOU DON'T KNOW HOW THE THING HAPPENED. YOU'RE NOT TRYING YOUR JUDGMENT

ACTUALLY I THINK I DO



YOU DO?

ALL I EVER WANTED TO DO WAS CLEAN UP THE TOWN A LITTLE



WHEN THAT DIDN'T QUITE WORK I MADE UP THIS PLAN TO BRING MY CAREER

WE BOTH KNOW NOW THAT TURNED OUT









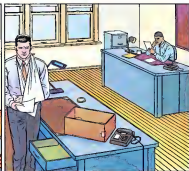




A MESSY ROOM,  
WHY? AGAIN?

HEY THERE,  
LEWIS. WOULD  
YOU CLEAN  
OUT MY DESK?

WELL--  
NO PROBLEM  
IN



LISTEN--



WE FIRST,  
OWENS?

I JUST WANT  
TO SAY I'M SORRY  
FOR THE THINGS I  
SAID TO YOU ON  
THE STREETS LAST  
WEEK.

I HAVEN'T BEEN  
ABLE TO LATELY THINGS  
JUST GOT OUT OF  
CONTROL. AND I'M SURE  
YOU'VE NOTICED.



OH FORGOT  
ABOUT IT HAPPENS  
TO ALL OF US.

BUT TAKE A LOOK  
AT THIS WE FOUND  
IT ON SOMEBODY'S  
BODY, YOU HEARD  
HE WAS KILLED,  
RIGHT?

SURE,  
BUT WHAT'S  
THE BIG  
DEAL?



I WOULD BLIND HUNDRED OUT  
HUNDREDS OF THESE.

BUT THAT'S LISTENING  
THOSE THINGS  
MEMBERS WRITTEN  
ON THERE.

I'M KEEPING MY  
EYE ON THAT GUY.  
MAYBE YOU'RE NOT  
COMPLETELY A COP  
ANYMORE, BUT YOU  
WANT ME TO CALL YOU  
IF SOMETHING IS  
HAPPENING?

STEVEN LAYTON  
MEMBER OF THE  
OFFICE

PHONE  
NO. 2-2-2  
2-2-2-2-2



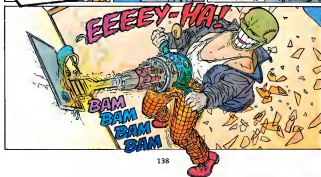
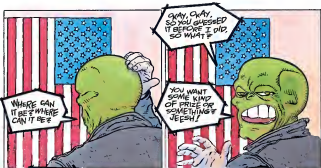


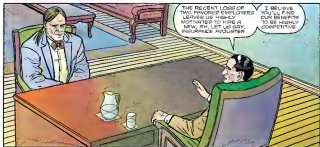












THE RECENT LOSS OF TWO HUNDRED EMPLOYEES LEAVES US HEAVILY MOTIVATED TO HIRE A NEW, FH, LET US SAY, POLYMERASE ADJUSTER.

I BELIEVE YOU'LL FIND OUR BENEFITS TO BE HEAVILY COMPETITIVE.



HEY, YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE!

DON WORRY, I'VE GOT TO TALK TO YOU!



WELL, NOW THAT YOU'VE INTERRUPTED, WHAT IS SO IMPORTANT?

I AM SORRY, BUT IT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT PA.

THE POLICE RADIO SAID HE'S BEEN TAKEN HOSTAGE IN HIS OWN OFFICE!



WELL, THAT'S WHAT THIS CITY HAS POLICE FOR, NO?

BUT, DON, WE'D HELPED US SO MUCH GETTING BRING OUT, AND NOW WITH WALTER.

WE'RE NOT JUST GOING TO TURN OUR BACKS ON HIM, ARE WE?

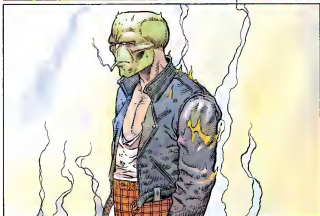


WHY NOT?

WITH ANY LUCK, THE NEXT HOUGHTON DO WILL BE A LITTLE LESS EXPENSIVE!









Y'KNOW  
SOMETHING,  
GUYS. I'VE  
ALWAYS  
FELT--

--THAT  
GUNS ARE  
STRESSED FAR  
TOO MUCH IN  
OUR CULTURE.

HOW  
'BOUT  
YOU?



I ASKED YOU LITTLE  
WUSSIES A @%\*%ING  
QUESTION!



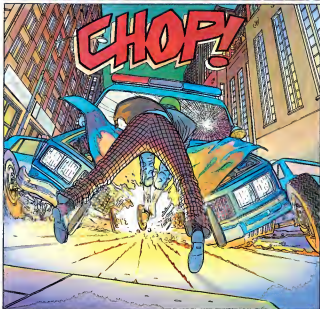
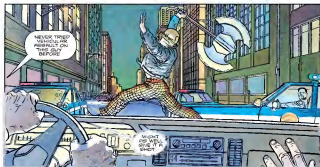
HE HE  
JUST STOOD  
THERE. ALL  
THOSE  
GUNS. NO  
NOTHING.

WON'T THAT  
WALK AWAY  
WELL, AWAY? TOLD  
YOU'D SEE? NOW  
THINK WE WERE  
DROPPED!

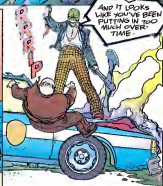


WELL, AWAY? THAT'S  
RIGHT! HE KNOWS ALL  
ABOUT THIS GUY. WHY  
DON'T WE CALL HIM?

"WHY?  
YOU WERE HIS  
REMEMBER?"



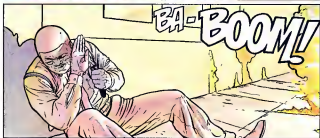


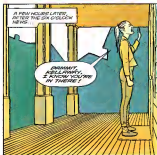












A FEW HOURS LATER,  
DATED THE SIX O'CLOCK  
NEWS!

SHAME!  
HELL, PROFF,  
I KNOW YOU'RE  
IN THERE!



BANG  
BANG  
BANG



I WANT  
MY BROTHER BACK,  
BUT HOW? GET  
YOUR FACTS!  
TALKING BULL  
THIS TIME!



YOU OBVIOUSLY  
DON'T ACCEPT IT,  
BUT THAT THING  
IS TOO IMPORTANT  
FOR ANYBODY  
TO DINK!



NO, I'M GOING  
TO PUT IT TOGETHER -  
I'LL DO WHAT I CAN  
ONE WILL NEVER  
GET AT IT AGAIN!



NOT  
EVEN  
YOU!

THEY AGAIN WILL BE FLYING!

THE MASK RETURNS



10/11

**JOHN ARCUDI**

**art**  
**DOUG MAHNKE**

**colors**  
**CHRIS CHALENOR**

**lettering**  
**PAT BROSSAU**

**the script**  
**DOUG MAHNKE**







THAT'S WHAT YOU DO, POLICE  
LIEUTENANT HELL BENTY  
KINDLY IN A HOLE FROM  
HE PUT FOR SOLUTION OF THE  
SECOND BIRTH OF THE  
AND BARRING A HERO.

HE WERE ASSAULTED  
FROM THE POLICE  
FOR HIS TROUBLE

CRISIS, CRISIS,  
YOU GOTTA LIVE OR  
THAT YOU'VE FIXED  
DOE

HE'S HERE!  
GOD!

THOUGHT YOU  
CRISIS, CRISIS,  
YOU GOTTA LIVE OR  
THAT YOU'VE FIXED  
DOE



HE KNOWS WHAT  
HE'S DOING, CRISIS  
HE'S KNOWING WHAT  
HE'S DOING, THAT'S WHY  
DOE WAZZED HIM.

HEY, YOU KNOW  
WHICH ONE IS THE  
WAZZED CRISIS  
THAT'S WHY WE  
HAD TO GO FROM ROOM



PERSONALLY, I  
THINK YOU SHOULD  
TAKE UP THE WHOLE  
HOUSE UP THERE  
HOW TO DO IT.

WELL, YOU DON'T  
DO IT, YOU KNOW  
WANT TO LEAVE  
THE GOD IS DEAD TO THE  
ALL THE GREAT HE'S GIVEN  
US.

I KNOW I STILL  
DON'T KNOW HOW TO  
DO IT, BUT I'M  
ALL BY MYSELF'S



OH-UT  
UP?

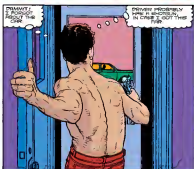
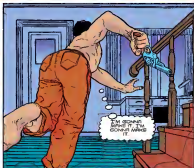
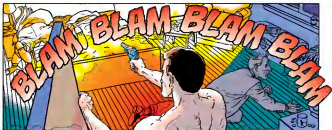


I DON'T  
KNOW WHO  
SENT YOU,  
SLUFFY.

BUT THE  
DEATH OF A  
GENTLEMAN  
SHOULD GO  
TO HELL.

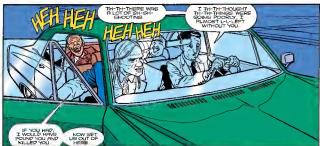


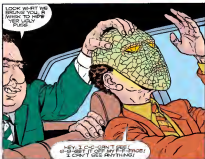
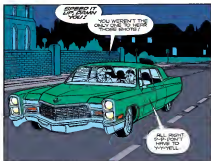
WELL, IF  
THAT'S  
YOU!













I CAN SEE EVERYTHING!!

# MASK WAR

NOW THEN...

WHO SAID THEY WANTED TO GO FASTER?









NOW THERE'S AN AD FOR SEAT BELTS!

BILL'S LIQUOR & CONFECTION



GAY, LOOKEE HERE.



WELL, I'LL BE - THIS MASK HAS MADE ME ABSOLUTELY GORGEOUS!

EXCEPT FOR THAT CRACK RUNNING DOWN THE MIDDLE OF MY FACE.



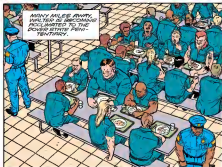
IT'S ALSO MADE ME...

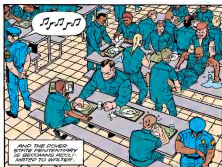
INVULNERABLE

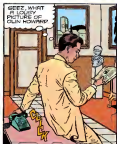


SCUSE ME, FELLAS.

I'VE GOTTA FIND OUT WHAT ELSE THIS MASK CAN DO.







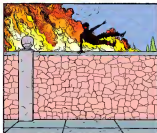
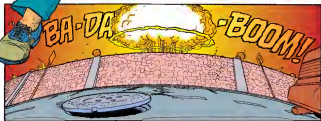


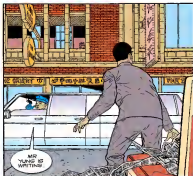












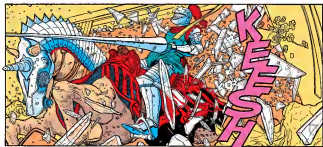


MY COLLEAGUES, I DO NOT HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT THESE ARE TURBULENT TIMES.

GIUSEPPE PERCORSO AND HIS FAMILY HAVE BEEN CALLED HERE TO DISCUSS BLOODSTAIN CEMENT MIXED IN MARRIAGE.



THE TIME IS RIFE FOR GROWTH.



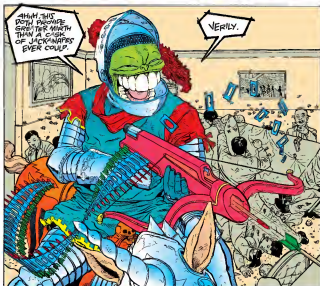
WHAT, NO!

THE ELDER ORDER OF THE "BLACK DRAGONS" BOTH SUP AS ONE THIS EVE.



MEANING AN OCCASION TO SLAY THE LOT OF THEM IS AT HAND.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?





OH, GOD,  
I'M SO, SO  
SORRY,  
LEUTENANT.



WHEN I SAW THE  
TV REPORTS, I WENT  
SO QUICK TO BLAME  
YOU FOR THE CRISIS,  
BUT NOW I CAN SEE--



IT'S ALL  
MY FAULT.

THESE  
THINGS  
YOU  
CAN'T  
BLAME  
YOURSELF!



BUT IT IS  
MY FAULT,  
DETECTIVE  
LIONEL.

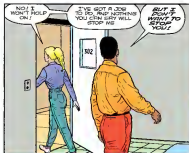
I TRIED TO UNLOAD  
THE RESPONSIBILITY  
OF THE MURK ONTO  
LEUTENANT KILLA-  
WY--



AND LOOK  
WHAT HAPPENED  
TO HIM?

THE FACT IS,  
IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY  
THAT I'VE  
GOT TO DO SOMETHING  
ABOUT IT.

NOW  
HOLD ON,  
KATHY--





















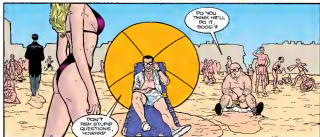


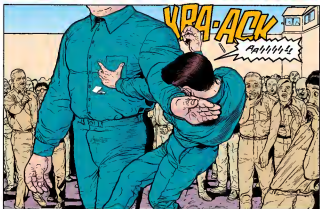




















DRAN AND ZOOBYE PRIVATE HOME IN THE "GORGEOUS" PART OF TOWN.

YEAH, YOU CAN HAVE ANYTHING IN THE FRIDGE. COLD CUTS. BEER. WHAT-EVER.



THAT OUGHTA KEEP THOSE BOONS BUSY FOR A WHILE.

NOW, LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS.



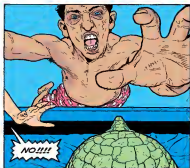
R-R-R-IIP













POPE... GET HER!

WE'LL CHECK ON THE BOSS



I NEVER TRUSTED THAT BITCH

THAT WASN'T THE BOSS... TOMMY! IT'S LITTLE NINNO... YOUR DRIVER... WHAT'D YOU SAYING HE IS... SOME HARDY?



I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON HERE...

... BUT I'M GOING TO FIND OUT!



BAM

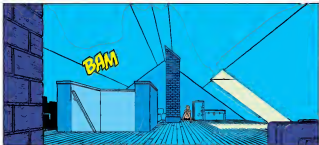


HEY, TOMMY... AFTER WE GET HER OUTTA THE ATTIC, SHE MIGHT NOT TALK

WHY'D WE DO THEN?



WHAT DO YOU THINK, TOMMY?!



























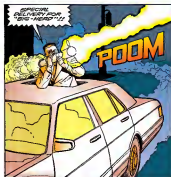






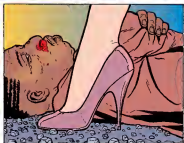


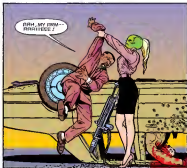
















IT'S VERY THERAPEUTIC TO TALK TO PATIENTS IN A COMFORTABLE ENVIRONMENT.

IS HE A FRIEND?



PART-OF THE WORK ON THE FLOOR TOGETHER.

RIGHT, MELLARY! HE WAS IN THE HOSPITAL JUST WHEN THE "BIG-BIRD" HOLLINGS STARTED.



YEP, WE WORKED THAT OFFICE TOGETHER. HE REALLY HATED THAT JOB.

HE'D PROBABLY FLIP IF HE SAW "BIG-BIRD" AND BRUCE TOGETHER.



HAVE YOU TOLD HIM?

HMMM, WELL, I DON'T KNOW HOW "THERAPEUTIC" IT'D BE, BUT TELLING ROBERT "BIG-BIRD" JUST MIGHT GET IN SOME CLUTTER FOR YOU.



WELL, YOU WOULD'VE ARRIVED SOON TO DRIVE A CUP OF COFFEE WITH ME?

YOU'RE SURE YOUR FRIEND WON'T MIND?



I THINK HE'S UNDERSTANDING.

MIDNIGHT, DOWN  
ON THE PAVEMENT.



WHERE'S SAM?



I DON'T  
LIKE THIS. IT'S  
GETTING PROBABLY  
LATE.

WELL,  
YOU HURRY  
THAT?



YEP,  
IT'S COMING  
FROM THE  
ROOF.



KEEESH!







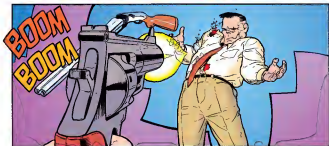
















I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE OF THIS.

I'VE GOT TO END IT!



I'LL BE ALL RIGHT, WON'T BE INJURED. STAN WASN'T WHY SHOULD I BE?

I JUST HAVE TO DO IT QUICKLY. JUST ONE QUICK MOTION.



NOW!



WHY?!



YAAAAAAAAA!

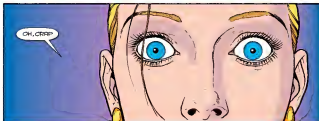


WHAT AM I SAYING? HOW COULD HE NOT RECOGNIZE ME LIKE THIS?

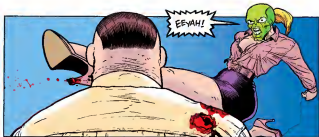
HEY, IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A LADY WITH A GREEN HEAD, YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG GUY.





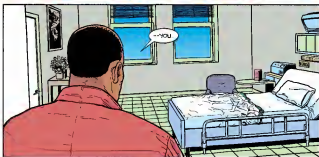
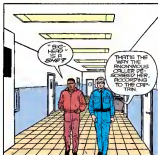


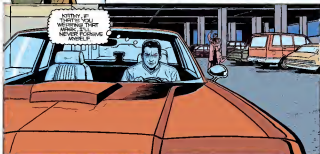




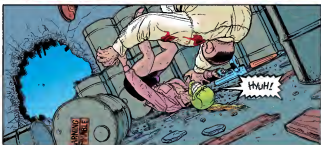
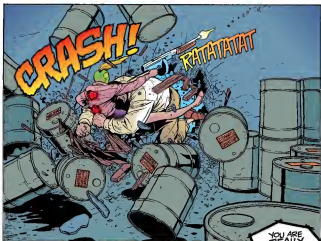








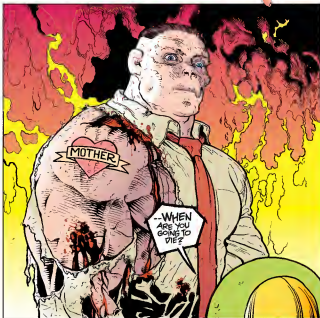
















YAAAAAAAAA!



ALL RIGHT!  
ALL RIGHT!!  
LEGO!!



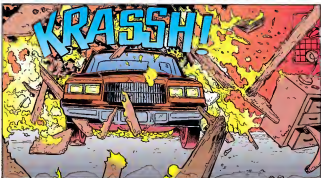
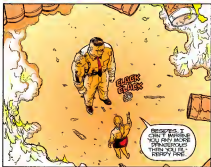
I KNOW WHAT  
YOU WANT STAN,  
LIEUTENANT  
KELAWAY, AND  
THAT LITTLE HOOP.  
LAW WANTED  
IT TOO.

EVERYBODY  
WHO KNOWS  
ABOUT IT  
WANTS IT.



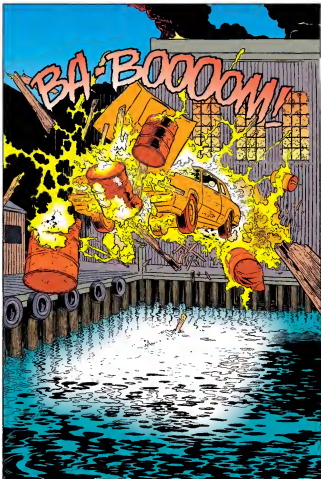
EVERYBODY  
EXCEPT ME

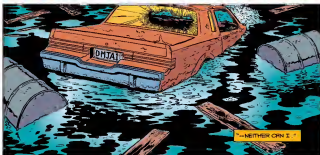
I'M BACK  
WITH  
IT











THE MASK STRIKES BACK



**JOHN ARZUMI**

**POETRY**  
**DOUG MAHNKE**

**KEITH WILLIAMS and RICH PERE (RTA)**

**PLAYS**  
**GREGORY WRIGHT**

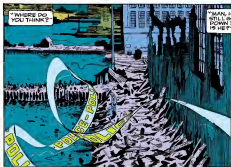
**SCREENPLAYS**  
**JOE BUHALIS**

**Illustration**  
**DOUG MAHNKE**









"WHERE DO YOU THINK?"

"MAN, HE'S NOT STILL SCOURING DOWN THERE, IS HE?"



"OH, YES. THE PLACE IS LIKE MEXICO TO HIM."

"THEY BIG-HEAD HAS A KICK AND ALL--"

"--BUT ROCK'S LIKE, OBSESSED WITH HIM."



"HASN'T IT BEEN MORE THAN A MONTH SINCE BIG-HEAD BOUGHT IT?"



"I MEAN, WHAT DOES HE THINK HE'S SCORING AND DOWN THERE?"

"NOTHING."





NOBODY, NO REMAINS, NO CLOTHES.

NOTHING



HOW DO WE KNOW BIG HEAD IS REALLY DEAD?

MIGHT JUST BE ANOTHER LAME PRED TO US BY THE STATE.

THEY'D DO ANYTHING TO MAINTAIN THEIR ORDER, WOULDN'T THEY?



I DON'T CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S DEAD I CAN'T?

I WON'T!

CHIG  
CHIG  
CHIG



CHUNK



?





"ANYWAY WE'RE ALMOST AT THE HOSPITAL."

"DOCTOR BLUD? I'M ABLERARY AND THIS IS DETECTIVE LOWRE. YOU CALLED US?"

"YEAH, OF COURSE AM'S ON THE FIFTH FLOOR, IN THE BURN WARD."



"...HAVE TO CHECK THE RECORDS, BUT I THINK HE SHOWED UP ABOUT A MONTH AGO."

"VERY BARELY RESEMBLED A RED-HAIR, BRADDOCK. ACTUALLY, JUST AS DESCRIBED IN THE POLICE BULLETIN."



"RIGHT IN ME!"

"OH, MY GAWD!!"



"A SHEET-ROD? MAN, THIS GUY MUST BE TOO MANY ABBOTT AND COSTELLO MOVIES."

"AND HE MUST EAT A LOT OF PEPPERONI PIZZA'S TOO HEAVY TO EVEN USE IT."

"BUT... BUT..."



"THAT'S A FORTY-FOOT DROP!"

"WHERE IS HE?"

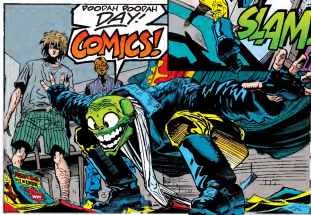


AND I'LL  
HAVE A  
SOLUBLE-  
BACON LIMBURGER...

SOME  
SILENT  
**OUCHY**  
FRIES...

--AND A  
LARGE ORDER  
OF  
**JACK THE PUPPER  
JELLO.**

DON'T SHOVE SILLY FOOD  
NAMING UNCE EATING **SO**  
MUCH MORE FUN?













EXHAUSTING STUFF, BUT THERE ARE OTHER THINGS HAPPENING TONIGHT.

THAT'S ALL. JESUS, THE TRENCH COAT AND ONE BOX OF LICENCIADOS.

OH, YEAH. TRUNKS A LOT.



LOOKING LIKE OUR BOY ALL RIGHT.

WELL, I CAN SEE WHY A GUY WEARING NOTHING BUT BANDAGES AND A HOSPITAL GOWN WOULD WANT THE OVERCOAT...



BUT WHY SNEAK A BOX OF CIGARETTES?

HEX THINGS ARE NOT CHEAP. SMOCKS.

AH, THERE'S THE HUMOR I'VE MISSED SO.



SORRY, LIONEL. IT JUST FEELS SO GOOD TO BE BACK.

THOSE FEW MONTHS AWAY FROM THE FORCE SEEMED LIKE FOREVER.

BUT NOW THAT I'M BACK, IT'S LIKE NO TIME AT ALL HAS GONE BY.



THANK GOD THE CAPTAIN REMEMBERED ME.

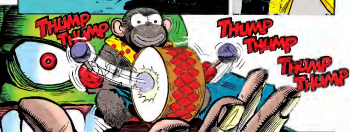
YOU KNOW, YOU NEVER DID TURN IN THAT RESIGNATION HE ASKED YOU FOR.

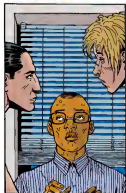
HELL, YOU COULD PROBABLY SUE FOR BACK PAY.







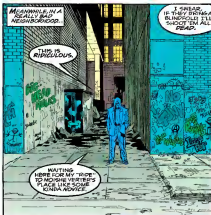










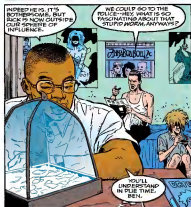




Hahahha...

Hahahha...

HAH!  
HAH!  
HAH!





AND WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU PROPOSE WE TELL THE POLICE-- THAT OUR FRIEND HAS A MAGIC MASK? PLEASE.

IN ANY CASE, I SUSPECT HE'S ACTING NO MORE IRRESPONSIBLY THAN ONE OF US MIGHT IF HE HAD THE MASK.

WHAT ARE YOU KIDDING? I'D BECOME A ROCK STAR IF I HAD THAT THING-- MASTER OF THE STAGE?



HAH. INTERESTING POINT.

PERHAPS THE MASK OPERATES ON AN EXISTING PERSONALITY DYNAMIC.

HOW?

WELL, DOES THE MASK PROJECT A CHARACT PERSONA ON ITS WEARER?



OR WAS THIS MAN ALWAYS INSIDE ROCK, AND THE MASK HAS ALLOWED IT TO EMERGE FULL BLOWN?



HUH? THAT'S LIKE ASKING "WHO LAID THE EGGS FIRST, THE CHICKEN OR..."

OH, HOLD ON. WAIT.



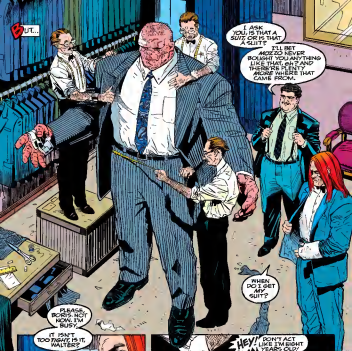
I ANSWERED YOU ABOUT SMOKING THAT STUFF, HUSB.

YOU KNOW I QUIT THAT LAST YEAR.

AND BUT THE BRAGGAGE HAS BEEN DONE.



**B**UT...



I ASK YOU IS THAT A SUIT OR IS THAT A SLUIT

I'LL BET I'VE NEVER BOUGHT YOU ANYTHING LIKE THAT, OH? AND THERE'S PLENTY MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM.

WHEN DO I GET MY SUIT?

PLEASE, BOB'S. NOT NOW, I'M BUSY.

IT ISN'T TOO EARLY, IS IT, WALTER?



**HEY!** DON'T ACT LIKE I'M EIGHT YEARS OLD!

I BROUGHT WALTER TO YOU, MY VERGER. IF YOU'RE NOT HIC, I MIGHT JUST TAKE HIM AWAY.



A NEW DEVELOPMENT IN THE SEEMINGLY ENDLESS "BIG-BROTHER" CASE.

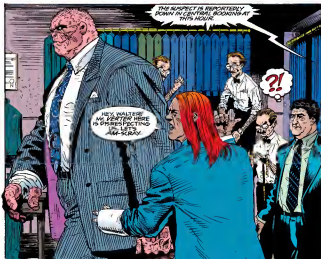
YOU NO MORE BROUGHT WALTER TO ME THAN THE ROOSTER RIPS THE SKIN YOU'VE POOL.

TOUCH ME AGAIN, AND I'LL STOP TOLERATING YOU.



FOR HIS BROTHERS JUST I WANT A SUSPECT MATCHING THE "BIG-BROTHER" POLICE DESCRIPTION HAS BEEN ARRESTED.

OHAY IF YOU THINK WALTER AND ME AIN'T DIAL, I'LL SHOW YOU.



THE SUSPECT IS REPORTEDLY DOWN IN CENTRAL BOOKINGS AT THIS HOUR.

HEY, WALTER! ME PARTNER HERE IS SUSPECTING YOU. LET'S AW-SO-BAY!

?!?





So...









**BA BOKIM**

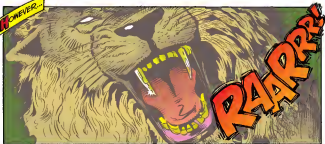
**THIS IS THE LIFE!!**

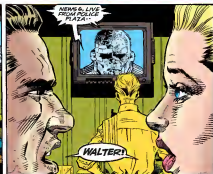
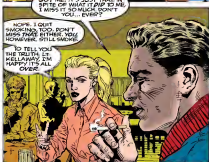
...WE SHOULD ALL BE DEAD.

I THINK THIS IS SUFFICIENT HUMILIATION. DON'T YOU?



HOWEVER...







NEVERTHELESS...

**GMan**  
TA BIG  
MUSH.

GIVE IT  
YER BEST  
SHOT.  
YER BEST  
SHOT!





GWA, DON'T YOU EVEN WANT AN ASPIRING?

WHONK!

THIS GUY'S...

QWFF!



KRAASH!

--ROLLING ME.





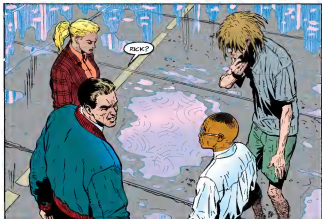
















SOME KINDA HAS-BEEN  
WASHED-UP **BUM**. THAT'S  
WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.  
*Sure, who wouldn't?*



# URP!!



BUT PEOPLE USED TO  
**PAY** TO SEE ME. THE **Big  
Bucks**. THEY SAID YOU  
BETTER BELIEVE  
IT, BOBBY.



HEY,  
**SIT BACK  
DOWN!!**

I GOT A SAD FRIGHT  
STORY TO TELL, AND YOU'RE  
GONNA **LISTEN!** AND DON'T LET  
ME SEE YOU YAWN EVEN  
ONCE. HEAR ME?



SHOULD'A THOUGHT  
ABOUT IT BEFORE I  
PUT THE THING ON.  
DIDN'T KNOW WHAT  
I WAS GETTING  
INTO.

WHICH IS WHAT  
I HAVE OVER YOU I'VE  
BEEN THINKING ABOUT  
NOTHING BUT THE  
MARK EVER SINCE  
YOU FOUND IT.

YEAH, I WAS **BIG**.  
BUT IT AIN'T LIKE  
I GOT THAT WAY  
OVERNIGHT.

WELL, ACTUALLY...  
IT'S A LOT LIKE  
THAT.





YOU WERE ALL OVER THE PLACE TO FULFILL DREAMS. A GUY'S GOT TO HAVE HOLES.

NO, REIK! WAIT!

NO, REIK! YOU WAIT!

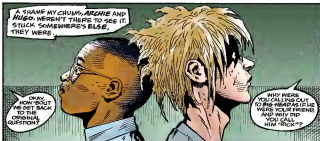
FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF \$PIN

'CAUSE I'LL BE ON THE COVER, SNACKY?

**QUICHE!**



AND THAT WAS THE ANCHOR-HOMSTER. A STAR ON THE RISE.



A SHAME MY CHUM, ARCHIE AND HUGO, WEREN'T THERE TO SEE IT. STUCK SOMEWHERE ELSE, THEY WERE.

OHAY, NOW 'BOUT ME GET BACK TO THE ORIGINAL QUESTION?

WHY WERE YOU CALLING OUT TO HIS FRIENDS IF HE WERE YOUR FRIEND AND WHY DID YOU CALL HIM "RICK"??



OHAY, HUGO, IT'S ALL UP TO YOU. ARE YOU GOING TO SIT HERE LIKE YOUR PAL AND KEEP A "MOM OF SILENCE"?

OR ARE YOU GOING TO DO WHAT IT TAKES TO KEEP YOU—SORRY—YOU—OUT OF TROUBLE?



JAIL, EVEN THE HOLDING CENTER WOULD BE ROUGH ON A KID LIKE YOU.

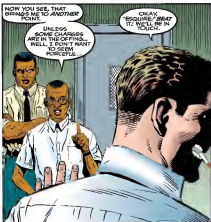
REALLY REALLY ROUGH!



MR. EXCUSE MR. DETECTIVE KELLAWAY, SIR, BUT, AREN'T THAT'S A BIT MUCH, ISN'T IT?

WHAT I MEAN, SIR, IS THAT WE'VE BEEN HERE ALL NIGHT AND—UH—REALLY, WELL, COULD WE TALK TO A LAWYER?

LAWYER? ONLY CROOKS NEED LAWYERS, SON!









SEE, I HAD A PLAN. NO  
GOOF-BALL SHOWBOATING  
ARTS FOR ME, HAND.

WELL, IF  
YOU PUT IT  
THAT WAY...

SMART  
MOVE, HOLLY  
WOOD. SMART  
MOVE.

JUST A ONE-WAY EXPRESS  
**BULLET TRAIN**  
TO DOUBLE-PLATINUM  
CITY

SO I GOT RIGHT 'EM AND  
I WANNA TELL YA, I  
BLEW THE DUST OFF THEIR  
BRAINS. I SET THEIR  
LIVERS ALL AQUIVER.

HELL I FEELP  
THEIR FREAKING  
EARS OFF THEIR  
HEADS. THAT'S  
WHAT I DID.

CRAY, MAYBE THEY DIDN'T  
HOLD UP LIGHTERS, OR  
YELL REQUESTS FOR  
"FREEDOM" BUT THEY  
PIP SAY--

CAN  
YOU START  
TODAY?

WANT  
DID I WE  
DON'T EVEN HAVE  
A SINGLE  
MAGNET...





WHOMP



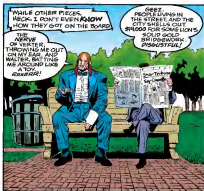
OOOF!

BANG  
BANG  
BANG

AAAA!

SOME OF THOSE FEELS  
ARE RANGED BIG, TOO.  
NEARLY AS BIG AS THE  
HAND OF FATE ITSELF





WHILE OTHER PIECES  
HECK, I DON'T EVEN KNOW  
HOW THEY GOT ON THE BOARD.

THE  
NERVE  
OF YESTER,  
THROWING ME OUT  
ON MY EAR, AND  
WALTER, RAT TING  
ME AROUND LIKE  
A TOY  
DOLLAR!

GEEZ,  
PEOPLE LIVING IN  
THE STREET, AND THE  
CITY SHELLS OUT  
\$1000 FOR SOME LIGHT'S.  
SOLID GOLD  
BRIDGEWORK.  
PSYCHUSTRAL!

HEY, YOU  
LISTENING  
TO ME?

NO, BORN, I'M NOT.  
AND I'D LIKE YOU  
CARE TO CALL ME  
ABOUT ANYTHING BUT  
A REAL JOB AGAIN.  
THINK TRICE  
ON IT.

I GOT NO  
INTEREST IN YOUR  
PROBLEMS. THAT'S  
WHAT BARTENDERS  
ARE FOR.



BUT WE'RE GONNA  
PULL A LITTLE, A TRICK  
ONE.

Star Tribune  
Say Cheese

I JUST  
GOTTA FIGURE OUT  
WHAT IT'S GONNA  
BE.



HEY, DO  
YOU JUST SAY  
SOMETHING  
ABOUT A  
LIGHT?





"SCREW THAT BUG!!"  
"BEN HAS THE MASK NOW!!"



"BEN?  
I DON'T  
HOW-?"



"I CAME BACK HERE TO PUMP IT. IT WAS FREAKING ME OUT. I COULDN'T TAKE ANY MORE."

"BUT BEN SNAGGED IT, AND HE'S TOTALLY BUGGER TOO."



"OOOO, WHAT NOW?"

"WELL, I TRIED TO FOLLOW HIM WHEN HE SPLIT, AND THAT WAS A BUST."

"BUT ON THE WAY BACK TO THE APARTMENT--"

"--I PULLED THIS OFF A TELEPHONE POLE."



"OUR BOYS ARE ON THE MOVE, AND THERE'S A THIRD GUY WITH 'EM."

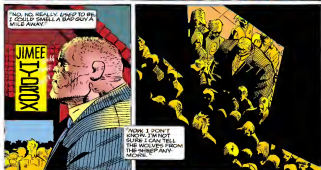
"MUST BE THE ONE WHO SPEAKS NO EVIL. OKAY, LIONEL, LET'S STAY WITH THEM."

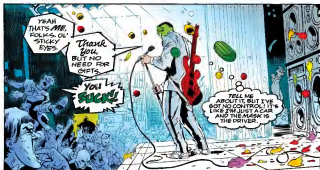
"WHICH WILL LEAD US BACK TO..."













**-CRANNEE!!**



HEY  
THEY  
HEY  
HEY



JUST LIKE THAT, I  
SNAPPED OUT OF MY  
WEIRDO LOUNGE  
LIZARD TRANCE...

HEY  
THERE. HAND-  
SOME. WHAT'S  
WITH THE  
SWORDS?



...AND CAME DOWN WITH A WICKED CASE OF BULL-GOOSE LOONY FEVER.



BEN, THIS IS BUCK!  
YOU'RE LOSING IT, DUFFY!  
TIME TO BAIL!

BACK OFF,  
PEE-WEE. I CAME  
HERE TO PLAY  
THIS GUITAR.



--AND THAT'S  
WHAT I'M GONNA  
DO!



TIMBERRR!!!



SNAP!



MOM WAS RIGHT  
I SHOULD'VE TAKEN  
UP THE  
FLANO INSTEAD.

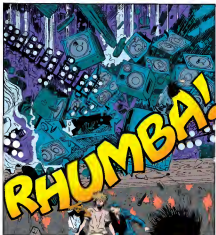


**K  
R  
U  
N  
C  
H**



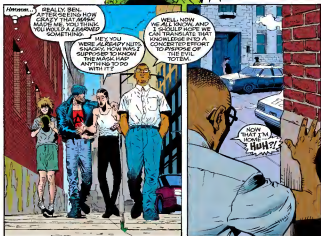
**TESTINGG!**















AW, I CAN CATCH UP WITH HIM LATER.

HE'S TOO STUPID TO GET VERY FAR ON HIS OWN.

HOO YEAN. I'M THE **GRUPID** ONE FLATFOOT.



ONLY IT'S **ME** IN THE CONTROL BOOTH NOW, CHIMP! NOT YOU.

I'VE GOT THE **MASK**. I'VE GOT THE POWER TO DO -- IT ALL.



AND I GOTTA SAY, THINGS SURE LOOK **DIFFERENT** FROM THE TOP OF THE HEAT.















I DON'T GET TOO FAR, DID I? JUST ALL THE WAY HOME. THAT'S ALL.

AND IN TIME FOR LUNCH, TOO.



CAN'T GO IN LOOKING LIKE THIS.



BUT THAT AIN'T NO THING FOR THE MAN WHO'S WEARING THE MASK.



NOT HARDLY.



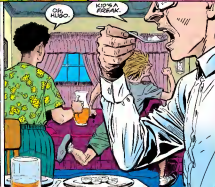
I THOUGHT IT'D MAKE ME DO ~~SAD~~ THINGS LIKE BEHIND RICK, BUT IT AIN'T.



Still THINGS DO SEEM A LITTLE...

...off.







LOOK! LOOK AT MY APARTMENT!

YOU REALIZE THAT ALL OF THIS IS DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THAT VEXATIOUS MASK.

YEAH, WELL, THE KEYSOMES FOUND NOTHING THAT WAS ON THEIR WARRANT. THEY'LL LAY OFF FOR A WHILE.

WHY DON'T WE TELL THE POLICE WHAT'S WHAT? I MEAN, THEY SEEM TO KNOW ABOUT THE MASK ALREADY.



YOU KNOW IF WE GO UP TO WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON, WE'RE LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT YOU AND I DID WHEN WE WORE THE MASK.

MAYBE THEY'D EVEN TRY TO PIN THE OTHER "BIG-HEAD" CRIMSON US, AND WHAT JURY WOULDN'T BELIEVE THEM?



BUT THAT GUY KELLARBY--

WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT A MASK.

THE BEST OF 'EM THOUGHT HE WAS AWAY. THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT "BIG-HEAD" REALLY IS, NOT YET.



THAT BUYS US SOME TIME TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO GET RID OF THE MASK.

GET RID OF IT? WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE IT IS.



GAAAAA!!













WHAT OTHERS?



POINK



BOY, THESE THINGS NEVER STOP BEING FUN, DO THEY?



HOLD ON... I KNOW THAT GUY, I KNOW HIM!



YOU!! YOU'RE GONNA RUIN EVERYTHING!!

Perzactly MY INTENTION, YOU NINNY.







Beautiful  
Beautiful--

Be-ay-  
ootiful!



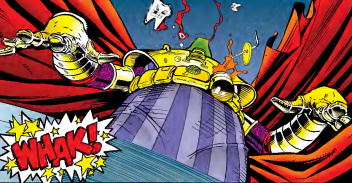
THIS  
IS IT. MEMBERS  
OF THE  
MAMMALIAN  
ORDER!

FOLLOW ME  
IN THE FIGHT FOR  
GOODNESS!



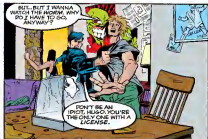














**ALL**  
RIGHT, YOU  
AMBULATING  
Keloid, YOU  
TERATISM IN A  
Tailored Suit,  
THE **BELL**  
JUST RANG AND  
Playtime's  
OVER.

**NOW**  
WE'RE GONNA SEPARATE  
THE MEN FROM THE BOYS,  
THE WHEAT FROM THE  
CHOFF, THE  
**FRUITS**  
FROM THE  
VEGETABLES.

WE'LL SEE  
WHO'S MADE OF  
**WHAT** AND  
HOW MUCH, YEAH,  
YEAH, WE'LL  
SEE.

**BASH!**





YOU HEAR THAT?

YEAH OVER THERE THROUGH THE BUSHES







**YEE-HAW!**

**GIT ALONG LITTLE STOGIE!**



**KA-RUNCH!**

WHAT'RE THEY DOING NOW?

WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK?

MAYBE HE SHOULD GO IN THERE AND HELP HIM BEAT THE TERMINATOR?



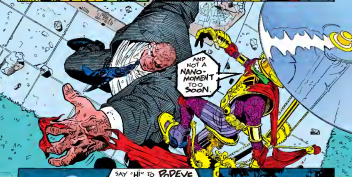
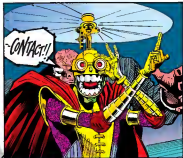
WHAT?! WE'RE GOING TO HELP HIM BEAT THE TERMINATOR?

PLEASE!



**OOCH!**

JUST GONNA HAVE TO FACE IT, OL' PAINT. THE **COWBOYS** DAY'S AGES **NUMBERED**.







I DON'T THINK THAT'S YOUR MONKEY.



DANKER, REMIND ME TO BRING A HELICOPTER ON OUR NEXT "BIG-HEAD" CALL.

IN THE MEANTIME, CUFF KING KONG HERE AND READ HIS RIGHTS.



Errr... CAPTIVEL?

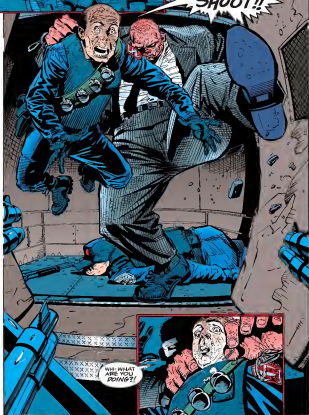








**DON'T SHOOT! DON'T SHOOT!!**



**WHY WHAT ARE YOU DOING??**









**WHOK!**

HEWHE!

**BAM  
BAM  
BAM  
BAM**



GEEZ, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?



FOR STARTERS, YOU ZAPPED OUT OF OUR WAY!









**ROAARRH!**

**PLOSH!**





**GUSHHHH!**

Ah...

PLEASE STOP BEING FOW!

**NO!  
NO!  
NO!!**





GET BACK HERE, YOU SON OF A BITCH! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

WHERE'S THAT POLICE BACKUP?!

WAAAA!





YOU SEE, THAT'S REAL MAGIC.

NOTHING ILLUSORY ABOUT IT. AN UNQUALIFIED MIRACLE.





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